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1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND**
2 **WORK EXPERIENCE.**

3 A. I graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1988 with a Bachelor
4 of Science degree in Accounting. Following graduation, I worked for
5 approximately three (3) years as an accountant for a national securities services
6 firm. In 1992, I began my employment with SCANA Corporation as an
7 Accountant working directly for SCANA Energy Marketing, Inc. Over the years, I
8 have held varying positions of increasing responsibility including Energy Services
9 Coordinator, where I was responsible for scheduling gas for the Atlanta Gas Light
10 System; project manager for the implementation of an automated gas management
11 system; and manager of operations. In 1998, I became responsible for gas
12 procurement, interstate pipeline and local distribution company ("LDC")
13 scheduling and preparation of gas accounting information. In May 2002 I became
14 manager of operations and gas accounting with SCANA Services where I was
15 responsible for gas scheduling on interstate pipelines and gas accounting for all
16 subsidiaries of SCANA Corporation. In November 2003 I became Fuels Planning
17 Manager where I assisted all of SCANA Corp. subsidiaries with strategic planning
18 and special projects associated with natural gas. I held this position until
19 promoted to my current position in December 2005.

20 **Q. HAVE YOU TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION PREVIOUSLY?**

21 A. Yes.

1 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS**
2 **PROCEEDING?**

3 A. The purpose of my direct testimony is to provide an overview of the natural
4 gas purchasing process for SCE&G generation and to discuss the volatility of
5 natural gas prices and forecast during the current period.

6 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF HOW YOUR DEPARTMENT**
7 **MAKES PURCHASING DECISIONS.**

8 A. The gas purchases made by Gas Supply and Capacity Management
9 Department are driven by the needs of the electric generation group. Part of what
10 we supply the Economic Resource Commitment Group is current market
11 information that can be used in running resource commitment models for our
12 electric generation plants. SCE&G's Economic Resource Commitment Group
13 requests gas price quotes and market information from my department on a
14 continual basis. This group uses current gas prices as inputs into their dispatch
15 models to determine the most economic means of supplying electric needs, either
16 through internal generation or off-system purchases.

17 The actual gas purchasing decisions are driven by the unit commitment
18 decisions made by the Economic Resource Commitment Group. Once the
19 decision is made that natural gas is the economical choice for providing reliable
20 power to our customers, my department is directed to purchase gas supplies for
21 delivery with a stated term and volume at the best available current market prices.

1 **Q. DURING THE CURRENT PERIOD, WERE GAS PRICES MORE**
2 **VOLATILE THAN NORMAL?**

3 A. Yes, attached to my testimony, as Exhibit No. ____ (RJ-1), is a chart that
4 compares the movement over time of the United States dollar index to crude oil
5 prices and natural gas prices as traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange
6 ("NYMEX"). The United States is competing in a world economy with growing
7 demand for energy. The declining dollar value, impacted by the sub-prime loan
8 crisis, contributed to escalating crude oil prices which in turn increased the
9 comparative value of natural gas. With regards to natural gas prices, a cold
10 January began a rally in the market moving prices from \$7.50 per dekatherm on
11 the first trading day of the year to a high of \$10.29 per dekatherm in mid-March.
12 In addition to weather, the increase in prices during the first quarter resulted from
13 below average underground storage levels. Exiting the winter period, overall U.S.
14 storage levels had been depleted to a higher degree than in the past year. Analysts
15 began forecasting the need for increased storage injections to meet the upcoming
16 winter needs and casted doubt on whether the market could refill storage to the
17 2007-2008 level. Thus, pressure increased on prices in the near term because the
18 expectations were that storage holders would begin immediate injections. U.S.
19 natural gas supply expectations were not being met due to a decline in Canadian
20 imports coupled with liquefied natural gas ("LNG") cargoes being routed to
21 Europe and Asia due to higher values in those markets when compared to the U.S.

1 market. Projections of an above normal hurricane season and warmer than normal
2 summer temperatures heightened the concern of supply availability in the market.

3 The Southeast experienced unseasonably high temperatures (fifty percent
4 above the thirty year cooling degree day average) in early June which continued to
5 drive natural gas prices upward. As a result, the demand for natural gas to serve
6 electric generation increased while national storage levels dropped below the five-
7 year average. Natural gas prices continued to rise during the second quarter
8 culminating with an all time summer high of \$13.69 per dekatherm on July 2,
9 2008. Oil prices also continued to climb, reaching an all time high of \$147.27 per
10 barrel on July 11, 2008.

11 The U.S. dollar began to strengthen in the third quarter while crude oil and
12 natural gas prices declined. New unconventional shale supplies came online at the
13 end of the second quarter from the East Texas/Arkansas area which supplemented
14 the LNG deficit due to continuing high prices in Europe and Asia. During this
15 period, the storage deficit compared to last year has diminished significantly. As
16 the Gulf recovers from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the market will likely resume
17 its attempt to eliminate this storage gap. However, since last fall's ending storage
18 balance set new records, a small deviation from last year's levels should not be
19 problematic, especially in light of the increased flowing supply available to
20 replace it. During the third quarter, natural gas prices moderated and traded in the
21 \$7.00 to \$8.00 range.

1 **Q. DOES SCE&G ANTICIPATE CONTINUED VOLATILITY IN THE**
2 **NATURAL GAS MARKET?**

3 A. Yes. My testimony has provided the Commission with a review of the
4 dynamics of the natural gas markets during this exceptionally volatile period. My
5 group will continue to monitor these markets closely and will use our best efforts
6 to make reasonable and prudent purchases to serve the Company's electric
7 customers. This presentation is meant to provide the Commission with a mid-
8 period snapshot of these developments. The direct testimony of Mr. Rooks
9 includes an updated forecast which takes into account the volatility of natural gas
10 prices experienced as of August 31, 2008, and forecasted fuel prices through April
11 2009.

12 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

13 A. Yes.